

# Speaking Out for the Voiceless

Human Rights Update • Congressman Frank Wolf



Dear Friend:

Welcome to the first of what will become a periodic newsletter aimed at keeping you abreast of important congressional action dealing with human rights abuses and religious persecution around the globe. Its goal is to help raise awareness about the plight of the persecuted and provide you with the necessary tools to help speak out for the voiceless.

The newsletter will focus on a range of issues, from the genocide in Darfur, to the human rights abuses in North Korea, Vietnam and China, to the 800,000 people a year who are trafficked in a modern-day form of slavery. Sadly, these issues are often overlooked by the media and don't make the headlines until it is too late.

In this initial newsletter I want to make you aware of two recent developments: the expansion of the Congressional Human Rights Caucus to include the Senate and plans for a 10th District Human Rights Conference in April.

On February 15, more than 350 people attended a reception on Capitol Hill announcing the expansion of the bipartisan Human Rights Caucus to include the Senate. Founded in 1983, the caucus is made up of more than 240 House Members - Republican and Democrat - who work to bring attention to and alleviate human rights abuses worldwide. I am privileged to serve as co-chair of the caucus with Rep. Tom Lantos (California), the only Holocaust survivor serving in Congress. Sen. Sam Brownback (Kansas) and Sen. Tom Harkin (Iowa) are the new Senate co-chairs.

Already considered to be one of the most effective caucuses in Congress, the caucus's partnership with the Senate will make it an even stronger voice on human rights. It regularly holds hearings on Capitol Hill, bringing in leading scholars, practitioners, agency representatives, non-governmental organization workers and human rights victims to brief Members of Congress and staff. In just the last few months alone, the caucus has addressed issues ranging from the persecution of Coptic Christians in Egypt to human trafficking to relief for the tsunami and Pakistani natural disasters. It also has hosted the Dalai Lama to discuss the situation in Tibet, and Mukhtaran Bibi, a Pakistani woman sentenced to be gang raped for the alleged misconduct of her brother. To learn more about the caucus, go online to [www.house.gov/wolf](http://www.house.gov/wolf). Click on Human Rights.

**On the back, you will find information about the upcoming 10th District Human Rights Conference. I have scheduled it on a Saturday morning to ensure as many people in the District who want to attend can. Please feel free to widely publicize the conference. It is free and open to the public.**

I look forward to keeping you apprised of what Congress, the Human Rights Caucus and my office are doing to monitor human rights abuses and religious persecution throughout the world.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Frank R. Wolf".

Frank R. Wolf





U.S. CONGRESS  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515

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*This mailing was prepared,  
published and mailed at  
taxpayer expense.*

*Frank R. Wolf*  
PRSR STD M.C.

# 10th District Human Rights Conference



*Come hear from leading  
experts and advocates on  
international human rights  
and learn how you, too,  
can become involved in  
pressing for change.*

**Saturday, April 29**  
**9:30 a.m. - noon**

**Loudoun County School Board  
Administration Building  
21000 Education Court  
Ashburn, Virginia 20148**

## Human Rights Conference Schedule:

### **Panel I: The Scourge of Sex Trafficking: Modern Day Slavery**

There are dozens of brothels operating inconspicuously throughout our region. Worldwide, there are as many as 800,000 innocent women and girls trafficked annually.

### **Panel II: Global Human Rights: The Face of Oppression Worldwide**

There are governments around the globe which daily oppress their own citizens.

### **How You Can Get Involved: Becoming a Voice for the Voiceless**

Leading human rights organizations will be on hand to provide information about how you can get involved.

Call or Visit My Web Page  
for Updated Information  
on Speakers:

**<http://www.house.gov/wolf>**

**Washington, DC**

Telephone: (202) 225-5136

**This event is free and  
open to the public.**

